

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet from the drawing includes changes to Fig. 1. The sheet replaces the original sheet of Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the broken lines are included to show the stabilizer 34 surrounding the stationary section 26 in the folded state of the gas bag 12. No new matter is added in these amendments to the drawings.

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CLAIM FOR PRIORITY:

Attached to the present amendment is a certified copy of an English translation of German patent application No. 203 04 810.5 filed March 25, 2003 with the German Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant respectfully requests priority of the attached German patent application in the present U.S. application.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment. Claims 1-110 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are amended and claims 10 and 11 are added.

Regarding the objection to the disclosure, the drawings are amended to include the broken lines, which show the stabilizer 34 surrounding the stationary section 26 in the folded state of the gas bag 12 as disclosed on page 4, line 30 and page 5, line 1 of the specification. An annotated drawing sheet is provided that shows these changes marked in red. No material is added in the drawings by these changes. The specification is amended to correct the other informalities mentioned by the examiner. Therefore, the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is amended to change "centric section" to "stationary section" to provide proper antecedent for "said stationary section". Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 with respect to the centric section (26), which is now the stationary section (26), being part of the cover (25). The specification clearly and accurately discloses that the stationary section (26) is part of the cover (25). In particular, on page 4, lines 5-10, the specification states that "For this purpose the center section 24 of the gas bag wall which, in the inflated state of the gas bag, corresponds to the deepest location of the indentation 28, is clamped between the upper side of the diffuser 22 and a centric, stationary section 26 of a cover 25 of the gas bag module 10 (only indicated in the figure)". Further, on page 2, lines 18-22, the specification states that

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"The gas bag module is provided with a cover in a known manner, which partly opens during deployment of the gas bag to release the gas bag. Preferably, the cover has a centric section, e.g. an emblem, which is stationary upon bursting of the cover and the position of which relative to the gas bag module does not vary upon the emergence of the gas bag. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is also amended to change "along" to "away from" according to the examiner's suggestion. Therefore, this amendment to claim 7 overcomes this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Marotzke et al. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marotzke et al. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marotzke et al. in view of Hill. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Attached to this amendment is a certified copy of an English translation of applicant's patent application filed in Germany on March 25, 2003, which perfects the priority date of the application. Accordingly, the present application is entitled to the priority date of its German application. U.S. patent application publication No. 2004/0245751 issued to Marotzke et al. has an effective filing date of July 19, 2004 because the International application publication WO 03/031237 A1 was not published by WIPO in English. Therefore, the March 25, 2003 filing date of the present application is earlier than the July 19, 2004 effective filing date of the Marotzke publication. Thus, the Marotzke et al. publication is not

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prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-3 and 8-9 should be withdrawn.

Further, claim 1 is amended to more clearly emphasize that according to the invention, the stabilizer surrounds the orifice as a completely closed ring and is not connected in the form of a self-closing tether to other parts of the gas bag module. Marotzke does not disclose or suggest an orifice that is surrounded by a stabilizer formed by a closed ring lying in a region of the orifice. By contrast, Marotzke et al. shows a spiral tension strap 10 that is fastened at one end to the airbag module and at the other end to the upper plate of the airbag 10. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claims 1-3 and 8-9 are allowable.

New claim 10 recites a gas bag module comprising a gas generator and a gas bag with a gas bag wall having a front wall serving as an impact surface for an occupant, in an inflated state of said gas bag. The gas bag wall has a center section comprising an indentation when the gas bag is in the inflated state and the center section is restrained and prevented from moving freely. The front wall has a centric orifice as a transition to the indentation. The orifice is surrounded by a stabilizer comprising a closed ring lying in a region of the orifice. The stabilizer is a part separate from the gas bag wall. None of the prior art discloses or suggests all of the claimed features of claim 10. Therefore claim 10 is allowable.


New claim 11, which depends from claim 10, should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 10 and also for the

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additional feature that the stabilizer entirely moves outwardly away from the gas generator during inflation of the gas bag. None of the prior art discloses or suggests this feature and including all of the claimed features of claim 10. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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